

**Remarks**

Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 3-15 are withdrawn from consideration.

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Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nutting, et al, U.S. Pat. No. 3,033,875 (Nutting '875).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

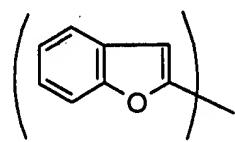
There is no possible overlap of the compounds of the present claims with those of Nutting '875.

The closest heterocycles of Nutting '875 to the compounds of the present claims are based on benzofurans. The compounds of the present claims are based on benzofuranones.

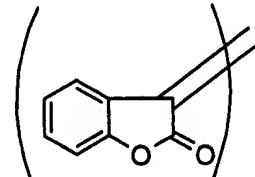
Further, the bridging moieties of Nutting '875 are attached to the heterocycles via single bonds. The present bridging groups are attached via double bonds.

For example, the closest heterocyclic-bridging moiety structural group of Nutting '875 compared to that of the present claims is as follows:

Nutting '875



present invention



There are no specific compounds of Nutting '875 that are structurally close to the present compounds.

As there is no possible overlap of the compounds of the present claims with those of Nutting '875, the instant compounds cannot be obvious thereover.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that the 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for a 3 month extension of time